

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 141647Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 223

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7701

EXDIS

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PINS CASE SOCI CO

SUBJ: COOPER KIDNAPPING

FOR S/CCT FROM AMB

1. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON THE FOLLOWING IN CONNECTION WITH COOPER KIDNAPPING: SEARS VP LINDSAY TOLD ME THAT HIS SUPERIOR JOHN GALLAGHER IN CHICAGO RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM THE DETECTIVE AGENCY INTERTEL TO TAKE OVER THE NEGOTIATION FOR COOPER'S RETURN. AS LINDSAY UNDERSTANDS IT, WHAT INTERTEL PROPOSED WAS A "TURN-KEY JOB", I.E. FOR A FEE (VERY HIGH LINDSAY SAYS) THEY TAKE OVER AND GET COOPER BACK. GALLAGHER ASKED FOR LINDSAY'S THOUGHTS. LINDSAY IS APPREHENSIVE BECAUSE THE COMPANY WOULD LARGELY LOOSE CONTROL SINCE INTERTEL TAKES OVER AT LEAST ON TACTICS. HE IS ALSO APPREHENSIVE--AND I SHARE HIS CONCERNS-- THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT MIGHT ANTAGONIZE THE GOC. HE HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME ESTABLISHING CONFIDENCE WITH GEN MATALLANA, WITH THE EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEM THAT NEITHER WOULD DO THINGS BEHIND THE OTHER'S BACK. IT IS NOT CLEAR THE GOC WOULD PERMIT OR WISH TO SEE INTERTEL COME IN AND OPERATE HERE. I WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER THE DEPT CAN TELL ME ABOUT INTERTEL AND ITS BONAFIDES (THEY APPARENTLY TOLD GALLAGHER THAT THEY KNEW ME, BUT I DO NOT KNOW THEM EXCEPT THAT I KNOW THEY HAD A REP IN COSTA RICA WHEN I WAS AMB THERE). HAS INTERTEL UNDERTAKEN SIMILAR JOBS IN OTHER SIMILAR KIDNAPPINGS, E.G. ARGENTINA? WHAT ARE DEPT'S THOUGHTS ON KIND OF ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED? (MY APPREHENSIONS ARE AS STATED ABOVE).

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2. AS NOTED IN BOGOTA 7663 WHAT APPEARS TO BE FIRST LEGITIMATE

CONTACT BY KIDNAPPERS HAS BEEN MADE, ALTHOUGH NO DEMANDS HAVE BEEN MADE AS YET. LINDSAY THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT KIDNAPPERS MAY BE ABOUT TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS. HE HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS START HE CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON EMB FOR CONSULTATION, ADVICE AND TO "BOUNCE IDEAS OFF OUR HEADS." I HAVE TOLD HIM WE CERTAINLY STAND READY TO CONSULT WITH HIM AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING AND WE WOULD HELP WHERE WE COULD, BUT THAT OF COURSE HE UNDERSTANDS THAT DECISIONS ON NEGOTIATIONS WERE HIS AND SEARS AND WE COULD NOT DICTATE TO HIM WHAT TO DO OR NOT TO DO. I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NOT AUTHORIZE ANY MEMBER OF MY STAFF TO TAKE PART IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH KIDNAPPERS. ALL OF THIS HE UNDERSTANDS AND DID NOT EXPECT OTHERWISE. IN ADDITION TO GUIDANCE IN A-775 I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS DEPT MAY WISH TO MAKE WITH RESPECT TO THIS PARTICULAR CASE. VAKY

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